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Review: Kanye West delivers his first magnum opus in five years with 'Donda'

The 27-track album floors longtime fans

Grant Ayers
Variety Editor

In the last three years since the summer of 2018, Kanye West has gone through multiple phases. Some were for the better, such as convincing then-President Donald Trump to pardon innocent men and releasing them from prison. Others, on another note, put West in a less favorable position in the media, such as donning "the red cap" or his failed run for the presidency.

After a tumultuous few years, West went through yet another self-imposed exile and retreated from the spotlight since November of 2020. Without a single tweet, Instagram post, or public sighting, fans were beginning to wonder where Kanye had gone. As it turns out, West was crafting his next magnum opus, 'Donda'. After the album title's announcement, it was clear that this new project would be one of his most personal,

intimate, and beloved to date. Donda is the name of West's late mother, who passed away at the age of 58 from complications following undergoing simultaneous surgeries in 2007. Since her passing, West seldom spoke about her on record, and even broke down on stage in 2013 attempting to perform his song dedicated to her, "Hey Mama". Throughout the multiple release parties hosted across the nation ranging from Las Vegas to

Atlanta to Chicago, the album was teased time and time again with alternate tracklisting and features. With every listening event that came and went, fans' hopes had grown as they believed that it would have to be released sooner than later. With the final listening party and release event being announced in his hometown of Chicago, attendees knew that they would be in for a treat. West had a team rebuild his childhood home as a stage and managed to pull out all of the stops, somehow besting his previous feat of floating to the top of Mercedes-Benz Stadium in Atlanta, GA. Aside from SWAT teams attempting to raid his home, setting himself on fire, and seeing Kim Kardashian in a white wedding dress, two people that stood next to West had some fans scratching their heads. Rapper DaBaby and singer Marilyn Manson were front and center, both with heavy allegations against them.

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West prays before tens of thousands at his first of three listening parties. Rolling Stone Twitter | Photo Courtesy

NFL week one preview

Score predictions and analysis for all 16 week one matchups

Ian Longtin
Sports Editor

We did it. After months of offseason tropes and headlines saying so and so is in the best shape of their life and that just about every player and team in the league is ready to turn the corner, we have made it to the eve of the NFL season. What better way to celebrate than to preview and predict each week one game?

If I predict your team to lose, never fear because my predictions are almost never right. If I predict your team to win, I apologize for giving them the kiss of death. Reminder: if I'm wrong and you want to rub it in my face, my email is on our website.

Dallas Cowboys at Tampa Bay Buccaneers

The defending champion Bucs welcome the Hard Knocks darling Cowboys to town in a spicy Thursday night matchup to open the season. Reports say Dallas' \$160 million dollar man Dak Prescott is all systems go, but after missing 11 games last season

and not taking a snap in the preseason, we may see some rust.

I think the Bucs defense keeps the mega-talented Dallas offense at bay, while Tom Brady and the vaunted Buc's passing attack picks up where they left off after last year's Super Bowl run.

Score- Bucs: 32
Cowboys: 23
Seattle Seahawks at Indianapolis Colts

This Colts roster nearly took down the 13 win Buffalo Bills on the road in the playoffs last season with Philip Rivers at the helm. If Carson Wentz can return to form after an abysmal 2020 season, Indy's ceiling is through the roof.

However, picking against Russell Wilson never tends to be a good idea. D.K. Metcalf and Tyler Lockett should fly around the Lucas Oil Stadium turf. With so many questions left to be answered for the Colts, Seattle starts the season 1-0.

Score- Seahawks: 29
Colts: 23

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State of North Dakota hopes to increase employment

Recent state reopenings lead to worker shortage nationwide

Courtney Entzi
Contributing Writer

Students looking for part-time jobs don't have to look far, and the work force is looking for workers too. In light of the recent lockdowns

and the current reopenings, companies and businesses nationwide are in search of new hires.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, job openings have increased to 10.1

million as of the last business day in June.

With financial aid during the lockdowns being provided, the workforce saw a decrease in workers willing to risk their health in order to work. According

to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the unemployment rate has now declined to 5.2% with many states reopening.

N.D.'s government has been working to increase employment within the state by

stopping several aid options as of June 19. The Governor believes that businesses wages are unable to compete with the federal and state unemployment initiatives created during the pandemic lockdowns.

"These federal unemployment programs were meant

to supplement state benefits and provide short-term relief for displaced and vulnerable workers, and these programs have accomplished their goals but are now counterproductive," said Doug Burgam, N.D. Governor

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Anti-choice lawmakers were successful in Texas, North Dakota could be next

Delaney Halloran
Opinion Editor

As of Wednesday, Sept. 1, Senate Bill 8 has gone into effect in Texas. The bill, a total ban on abortions after six weeks of pregnancy, even in cases of rape and incest. This bill is a startling development for all individuals born with female sex organs, not just those living in Texas.

At six weeks, most people aren't even aware they are pregnant. Bills like

these not only ban abortion, but take away the right afforded by Roe v. Wade for women to choose to have an abortion without excessive government restriction.

The precedent this sets for similar bills presented in other states and the purposeful refusal of the Supreme Court to take action do not bode well for the state of reproductive rights in North Dakota.

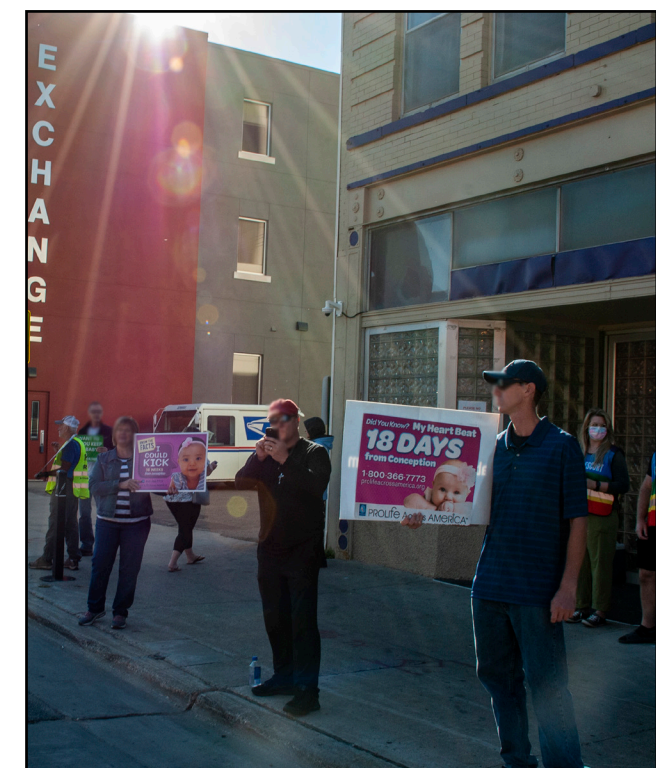
Not less abortions,

just less safe abortions

Abortion bills like the one in Texas do little to stop abortions from taking place. In a 2017 study from the Guttmacher Institute, researchers found that abortions occur just as frequently in the countries with the most restrictive abortion laws — banning it outright — as those countries where there were the least restrictions — where it's allowed without

reasoning or restriction. What this means is that abortions will still be happening, but instead of access to safe, affordable healthcare, pregnant patients will be forced to take other, often extreme, measures in order to get an abortion. At the same time individuals with wealth and access will still be able to get abortions out of state or in secure facilities.

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Alex Light | The Spectrum

A pro-life protest organized outside of a clinic in Fargo.